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VALLEY STAR

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Volume 50, Issue 4 Thursday, February 27, 1997

HIGHLIGHTS

The **Writing Center** will offer a **series of writing workshops** including: Punctuation Monday, March 3 at 6 p.m; Writing Essay Tests Thursday, March 6 at noon; and Comma Splices Friday, March 7 at noon. The workshops will be held in the Humanities Building, Room 100. Each workshop is free and lasts about one hour.

The LAVC **Counseling Department** will be sponsoring two **mandatory** workshops: **Progress Probation Workshop** March 4 at 1 p.m. or March 5 at 6 p.m. and the **Academic Probation Workshop** March 4 at 6 p.m. or March 5 at noon. Students that have received a progress or academic probation letter must attend one of these workshops. Call Mr. Gordon in the Counseling Department at ext. 246 or 249 for more information.

The **Counseling Lunchtime Workshop** series continues Tuesdays at noon in the Foreign Language Building, Room 102. The next workshop is March 4 by Mr. Reggie Reed regarding Athletes and Transfer.

The **Campus Concert Series** continues with their next performance Feb. 27 at 11 a.m. in the Music Recital Hall. Flutist Phyllis Newman, Bassoonist Charles Gould and Pianist Ralph Heidsiek will be featured.

The **Valley Symphony Orchestra** will present an opera program March 7 at 8 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall. The concert will include excerpts from Verdi's "Rigoletto," a Mozart horn concerto with soloist Dick Fisher Ive's "Variations on America." Also, the winner of the VSO annual composition competition will be presented.

The **Student Health Clinic** will be having a **Health Fair Expo** April 14. Those with suggestions for possible screenings or exhibits should call Jeanie Duran at (818) 780-0652. Volunteers are also needed.

A **nurse practitioner** will now be available at the Student Health Clinic Tuesdays and Fridays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

University representatives from four-year colleges and universities, including CSUN, UCLA, CSULA and Mount St. Mary's will meet with prospective transfer students during the month of March. For detailed information, stop by the Administration Building, Room 126 or call (818)781-1200, ext. 332.

The deadline for filing for **Fall '97 graduation** is Friday, March 14 at 4 p.m. Petitions are available in the Graduation Office in the Administration Building, Room 127.

The **PACE Advisory Committee** will have its first meeting March 4 at 3 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge. All interested parties are invited to attend. The agenda will include discussions for the new PACE programs for Valley College.

William E. Norlund has been appointed as the **new president of Los Angeles Mission College**. The Board of Trustees for the Los Angeles Community

See HIGHLIGHTS Page 2

Black History is Celebrated

By LINDA E. THOMAS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Valley College students presented "A Celebration of Black History!" with music, poetry, song and dance in the Campus Center Tuesday night before an overflowing audience.

The Fireside Room was filled to capacity with students sitting in the aisles, standing around the walls and spilling out into the hallways while the Tuesday night Valley College African-American Literature class presented multi-arts performances honoring the African-American contribution to the American society.

Several audience members and performers were adorned in colorful African-style dress. Guests piled their plates high from the food and refreshment buffet offered at the free event.

The program began with a reenactment of "one of the most degrading acts that went on in the slave era - the slave auction," Mistress of Ceremonies Nicole Ledet said.

The audience participated in the slave auction bids.

"How old is she?" one audience member asked. "Does the baby come with her?" The first slave sold for $750 while she screamed when the auctioneer tried to separate her from her child.

"How's her teeth? She got good teeth?" another "bidder" inquired. "Can she cook? How long can she go without rest?" The second sold for $825.

The third "slave" was purchased and set free as the audience cheered.

Several poetry readings followed. Student William Champion read his own poetic work, "Why Me?" which began by asking, "Why was I born to look through these dark brown eyes?"

"I have been inspired by events that have happened in my lifetime," Champion said after the program about his poetry. "The class enlightened me more to the literature of African-American history,"

Dorris Johnson performed a poetic presentation of "The Negro Mother," author unknown. "God put a dream like steel in my soul, so now my children you can reach my goal," she performed. "I was the seed of the coming free." The poem was about a slave woman, Johnson said.

Rhonda Olds read a poem by her nephew about his reaction to his visit to a slave ship that was on exhibition. "This nightmare is and not was true," Olds read. The audience stared with serious faces and there was a long pause before applause broke out.

A folk tale, "Why Negroes are Black," was told by Deborah Washington. She explained that folk tales are timeless, placeless and anonymous stories verbally circulated to family members, friends and children. Washington said that most African-American folk tales have been handed down from the slave era in the 19th century.

Music followed with an acappella performance by Charity Hayes and Rhonda Olds of "Lift Your Voices and Sing."

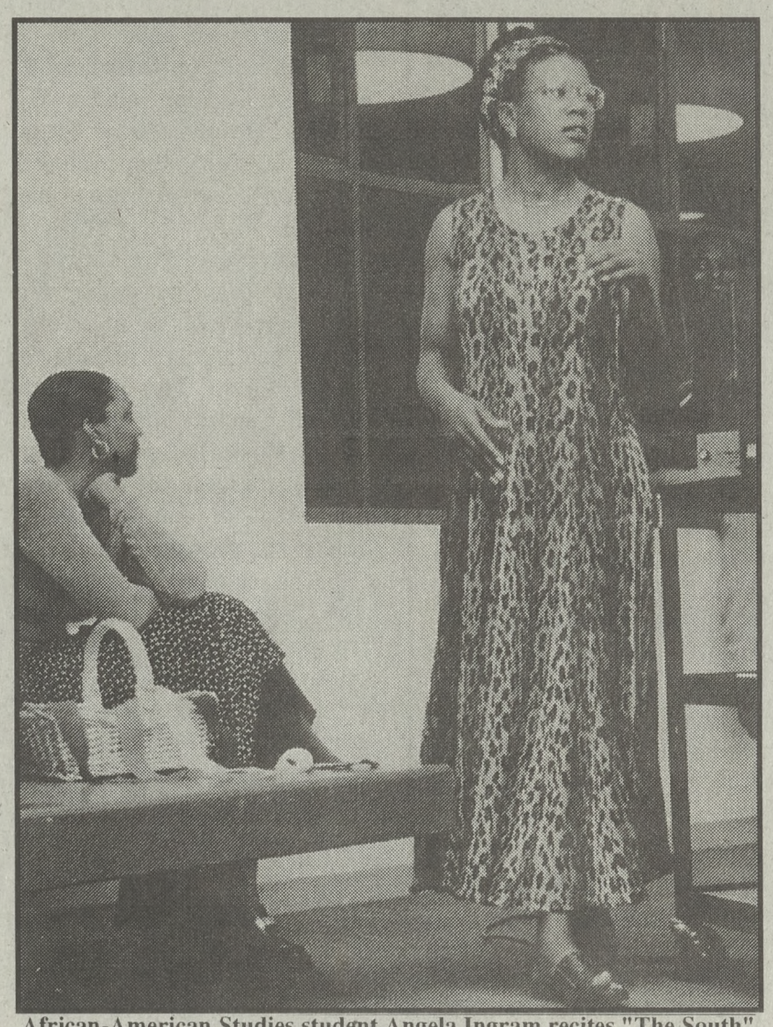
"Sing a song full of hope that the present has brought us," Hayes and Olds sang in harmony. The audience listened intently without a sound or movement.

In flowing costumes and beaded jewelry, three young women danced barefooted to African rhythms in a mix of modern and African styles.

Additional poetry readings and dramatic enactments were woven between the musical and dance performances, including by William Chapelle, Karen Clay, Angela Ingram, Tracy Bachman, Anitra McClellan and Elena Munoz.

Clay dramatically read "Phenomenal Woman," by Pulitzer-prize-winning author Maya Angelou. Ingram read, "The South," by Langston Hughes, written in 1922. "The lazy laughing South with blood on its mouth," she read.

Valley student Carl Caldwell performed his original music live on keyboards with guest drummer Horace Wellington accompanying.



African-American Studies student Angela Ingram recites "The South" at "A Celebration of Black History!" Tuesday.

Caldwell described his performance as "from the old school and bluesy to more modern day." While Caldwell played a strong rhythmic and progressive piece, his hands quickly danced across the keyboards as the audience "danced" in their seats. At its close, the audience whistled and boisterously applauded.

A "Monologue on Martin Luther King" was dramatically performed by Ruben Garcia, a fic-

See Black History Page 2



Carola Danielsson/Valley Star

Valley softball player advances to third base in the Valley Classic Tournament Saturday.

See story on Page 5

Club Petitions to Save Navajo Land

By DAVID BALDWIN
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The American Indian Student Association campus club met Tuesday at noon in the Foreign Language Building to discuss ill-treatment of Navajos and other issues concerning Native Americans.

On March 31, a Navajo land lease expires in Big Mountain, Arizona when Navajos will be forced off their land by the U.S. government because of uranium that is under the land.

They will be forced to lose their own reservation and go to live on the Hopi reservation and live by Hopi laws.

The government is giving the Navajos two choices: either leave their land and have nowhere to live or sign a 75-year lease that states they must stay on Hopi land.

"On March 28, we're planning to go up there, but remember this is not going to be a vacation," AISA member Lorenzo Trujillo said at the meeting. "When we're up there, we're going to have to worry about getting arrested, so we have to be careful of that."

AISA will be starting a petition to save the Navajo land as soon as they obtain all the government forms.

AISA is planning a fund raiser for Saturday in the campus Quad area near the bungalows. They will be selling coffee, donuts, hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and sodas.

The fund raiser is to raise money for the club's May 7 event which will feature Native American dancers and drummers, crafts and various student speakers.

For the upcoming Club Day Wednesday, AISA will sell hamburgers and hot-dogs in Monarch Square. Those interested may sign the petition at that time for the Navajos to keep their land.

Native American students or students interested in the culture may meet with the club Tuesdays at noon in Room 104 of the Foreign Language Building.

Student Claims Discrimination Regarding Campus Blood Drive

By BEN ALTER
STAR REPORTER

Valley College student Alex Rojas was not allowed to donate blood at the Red Cross campus blood drive in Monarch Hall Tuesday on the basis of his sexual orientation, Rojas said.

The Los Angeles Community College District has a non-discriminatory policy that Rojas said he believes is being violated.

According to the policy, all programs and activities of the LACCD shall be operated in a manner which is free of discrimination, which includes sexual orientation.

Rojas brought the topic before the Associated Student Union executive meeting Tuesday to gain ASU support.

"One of the questions on the questionnaire that must be filled out is, 'Have you had sex with another man, even once, since 1977,'" Rojas said at the ASU meeting. "If you answer yes, they will deny you from being a donor. I was denied myself. There was no rational explanation for this except for that they don't want to accept blood from any homosexual, whether they have AIDS of not."

The ASU rejected support to Rojas on the basis that they said the ASU is not allowed to become involved with any political issues.

Rojas said it is his opinion that his is a situation that seriously affects the student body of Valley College and should have been addressed by the ASU.

"Homosexuality is one of the government established high-risk group activities, and anyone who does high risk activities according to the FDA cannot give blood," Barbara Jones, Head Nurse of the blood drive, said. "It's not the homosexual activities, but the high-risk behavior, same as IV drug use."

Jones said that she does not believe that the Red Cross is discriminatory, but that they are just following guidelines.

Rojas has made a complaint with campus officials.

Kilolo Goodman/Valley Star



Black Student Union members met at Monarch Square last week to discuss club activities for the semester

- The Valley College BSU was established in 1978.
- The BSU has approximately 30 participating members this semester and is growing in numbers.
- The club meets Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in Room 112 of the Foreign Language Building. Anyone interested in the African-American culture is invited to attend.

See Page 6 for related articles on Black History

HIGHLIGHTS

College District took this official action at its Feb. 12 board meeting. Norlund has worked with the district for 30 years.

John A. Snell, former counselor and coordinator of records for Valley College, died Feb. 1 at Oak Park, California. Further information is available from Administration.

College students who are U.S. citizens and have a grade point average of "B+" or better are eligible for a **$1,000 college scholarship**. To receive an application, send a request by April 11 to the Educational Communications Scholarship Foundation at 721 No. McKinley Road, P.O. Box 5012, Lake Forest, IL 60045-5012; fax a request to (847) 295-3972 or send an e-mail to "scholar@ecilf.com."

Greg Boyle, a nationally recognized expert on gangs, will conduct a **conference on community strategies to stop gang violence** March 11 at 7 p.m. at 464 E. Walnut Street, Pasadena, Room 145. The event is free for those who register by March 9. Call Lori Nelson at (213)896-4251.

The Group Repertory Theatre will present Neil Simon's comedy **"Chapter Two"** at its theater in North Hollywood located at 10900 Burbank Blvd. opening March14. Call (818) 769-PLAY for reservations.

The **Will Geer Theatricum-Botanicum** will offer intern positions and **theater student seminars**, including an **Intensive Shakespeare Seminar**. College student auditions are March 16. Call (310) 455-2322 for more information.

The Enchanted Forest Theater Company will perform **"The Drunkard,"** a campy muscial comedy, through March 16. Call (818) 716-7202 for reservations.

Black History Celebration

Continued from Page 1

titious piece about what King would say to us if he was alive today. King, in the monologue, asked if those who memorized his "Dream" speech memorized with their head or their heart.

"I'm tired of everybody hearing and no one listening," Garcia said as King. He asked why "those strong legs" could jump to dunk a basketball but can't walk to the voting booth.

"You're eyes may be out of focus, but I have some glasses for you," Garcia said. He added that he was there to find a solution to the problem. The audience cheered. Garcia boldly said that if he had offended anyone by his presentation, he was not sorry, and that he said not what they wanted to hear but what they needed to hear. The audience cheered again.

McClellan strongly read a modern poem, "Notes From an Unslaved Mind."

"A slave in whose eyes? Defeated? Never," McClellan read. "If I raped your women; if I killed your man; if I beat your children; would you hate me?"

The program was brought to a dramatic close with Yeko Ladzekpo Cole, Lisa Berry, Yolanda Heath and Doris Johnson performing "West African Dance" to drum and percussion rhythms. The dance built in intensity to the pounding beat as the dancers performed intricate patterns with their whole bodies.

Someone called from the audience, "Work it girls," as the audience began clapping to the heated rhythm. "All right, now," another resounded.

At the end of the performance, the audience could not be controlled. They immediately burst from their seats dancing in the stage area and aisles to more of Caldwell's live improvisational jazz.

Ledet requested that black history be kept in mind, not only to be celebrated one month out of the year, but all year. Johnson said she thought it was a very positive experience working on the project.

Valley student and audience member Tashone Pine said, "It was a learning experience for myself. It was good to see a variety of people get together to attend a Black history evening."

"I think it was lovely, brothers and sisters coming together for something positive. It was unique," Valley student and audience member Sirr Guy Shakir said.

Literature student Syna Sturdivant was producer of the show. "It was to commemorate Black History Month. We were offered the challenge to put together the show from the first day of class," Sturdivant said. "We got suggestions from the class, a lot of really great ideas. The slave auction was really a class assignment, but it went so well, we decided to put it in the program."



James Hughes/Valley Star

African-American Studies students (from left to right) Lisa Berry, Yeko Ladzekpo Cole, Yolanda Heath and Doris Johnson dance to African rhythms at the Black history celebration in the Fireside Room.

The class meets Tuesday nights and all of its 32 students participated in the presentation in some way. Sturdivant said that there were no class rehearsals together and that each group rehearsed individually on their own time.

Barbara Stoffer, Chairwoman of the American Cultures Department and Instructor of African-American studies for 29 years at Valley College, challenged her students to create the program.

"We have a program every year, but it varies. This is the first time we have had it for Black History Month," Stoffer said.

Another Stoffer class will present an entirely different performance Friday at 9:00 a.m. in Monarch Hall with poetry, songs, drama and refreshments.

Stoffer was quick to say that she does not have anything to do with the programs other than to challenge the students to do it. She said that the students produce, direct, present and perform the performances entirely themselves.

"We need to recognize African-American history so that maybe one day America would hopefully recognize that African-American history is American history. But, until that day, there's a need to recognize and to celebrate the contribution and culture of the African-American," Stoffer said.

LAVC Hosts Speech Tournament

The Spring Speech Tournament for 11 western states will be held at Valley College this weekend.

All students are invited to attend the event to watch the competitions and support the Valley College team.

The event will begin tomorrow at 11 a.m. and continue through Sunday evening.

Debates and Readers' Theater will begin the Tournament and continue until 6 p.m.

Impromptu, Persuasion, Duo, Programmed Oral Interpretation and Drama speakers will compete Saturday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Prose, Poetry, Informative and Multicultural Informative speakers will compete Sunday 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The awards ceremony will take place at approximately 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

Approximately 20 Valley College speech students will be competing in the tournament.

Attenders and participants are advised to watch for a revised schedule during the tournament.

For more information, call Yancy Duncan at (818) 781-1200, ext. 251.

NOTICE

The following photography credits were inadvertently omitted from the Feb. 13 issue of the *Valley Star*:

Page One

Top right photo of Officer Habicht: Linda Thomas/Valley Star
Center left photo of EDD ceremony: James Hughes/Valley Star
Bottom right photo of Clinton speech: Maria Ivey/Valley Star

The Page 7 top right photo of the Monarch baseball team was taken by Carola Danielsson/Valley Star

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LETTERS * LETTERS * LETTERS * LETTERS * LETTERS

The Valley Star will receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 250 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations. Letters must be signed and include student's ID number. Letters may be left with the Valley Star at BJ 114 by Monday morning for the following Thursday.

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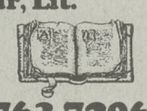
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'Rosewood'

Worthy of an Oscar!

By ALICE GARABEDIAN
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

If you ever wanted to see a movie filled with drama, action, romance and which gives you a look back into history, "Rosewood" is the film that has it all, and much more.

John Singleton's film is a true story that took place in Rosewood and Sumner, Florida in 1922.

The movie reminded the audience, as well as myself, that there are several unknown heroes that fought and died for their own rights, as well the rights of others.

"Shocking" and "sad" is the way to describe the plot to this film. It clearly portrayed the Rosewood massacre which occurred over 70 years ago in a small town in Florida.

Mann, the main character played by Ving Rhames of "Pulp Fiction," is a wandering World War I veteran who rode into the town of Sumner on Dec. 31, 1922.

Not knowing what he would find, he meets the Carrier family that brought him into their home, fed him and provided him shelter.

He quickly became close to "Scrappie" Carrier, played by Elise Neil, a 17-year-old school teacher who is eager to be married off.

Tired of violence occurring around him, Mann fled when trouble started arising in Rosewood.

Jon Voight of "Mission Impossible," plays John Wright, a rich white man in the town of Rosewood that profited from the blacks that lived there.

He became a hero by providing a train for the Carrier family to escape from the mob.

Struggling with his racist feelings, Wright used his home as a shelter for the local wounded men. Wright surprised moviegoers at the end of the film when he endangered himself and his family to save a black family.

Aunt Sara Carrier, played by Esther Rolle, is well respected throughout the Rosewood community despite racial differences. Along with Sylvester Carrier, played by Don Cheadle, she heads the Carrier family.

Catherine Kellner plays Fanny Taylor, a married woman who has an affair with a man that beats her. To cover it up from her husband, she blames the beating on an unknown black man and tells the residents of Rosewood that it was a black man that beat her for no reason.

Aunt Sara and one of her nieces witness the beating and know that the man was white, but keep quiet because Sara knows no one would ever believe a black woman.

Sheriff Walker, played by Michael Rooker, finds out and begins a search for a large black man to hang.

A lynch mob is formed to search for the man. They attack innocent men in their homes.

While questioning numerous men, Duke Purdy, the most monstrous of the group played by Bruce McGill, shoots indiscriminately at the blameless men.

"Rosewood" is a film that, while educational, still makes you leave the theater with tears in your eyes and a heartache concerning the merciless killings of innocent people.

This film, rated from one to ten with ten being best, is a ten plus!

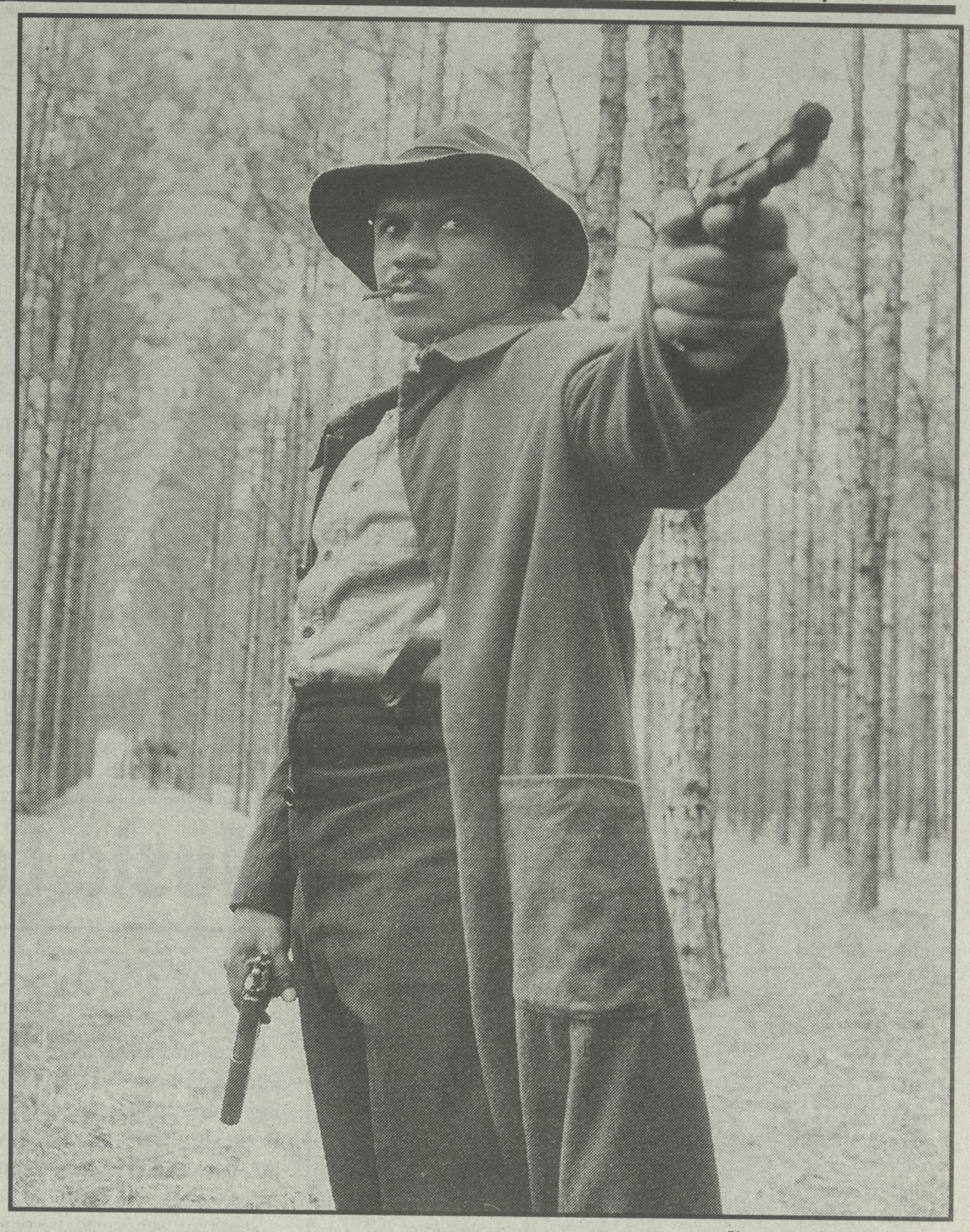


Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

Mann (Ving Rhames) returns to help fight off the white lynch mob of Sumner, Florida in "Rosewood."

'Ten Little Indians' .....and Then There Were Nine

By ALICE GARABEDIAN
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

"Ten Little Indians," this year's Valley Collegiate Players' show directed by Aubrey West is composed of a small cast of 11.

Agatha Christie's murder mystery managed to keep the audience in suspense trying to figure out who the murderer is in spite of the play being weak in general.

The problem lies not in the script, but in it's application on the stage. Marginal performances, poor direction, and lagging scenes dragged an otherwise wonderful play down.

Christie's plot involves ten guests that are invited to a residence where they are accused of murder. Each "Indian" is killed off one at a time starting with Sara Litz as Ethel Rogers the cook and wife of Thomas the butler.

The rest of the guests are systematically eliminated in several ways according to the riddle, "Ten Little Indians," that was hung on the wall above the mantle piece.

Also, ten Indian statuettes decorate the set and countdown the demise of each cast member by mysteriously disappearing from the mantle.

The set was wonderful and accentuated the mood of the play. Through expert design and skillful craftsmanship, the set lent itself to the movements of the actors.

The sound effects were a bit mediocre, but the visual effects of lightening striking and power outages made up for the audio blunders.

I hate to say it, but the set and effects were the best part of the play.

Performances, though exceptions existed, were marginal at best. Miguel Ponce de Leon who played General Mackenzie, was exceptional. He portrayed an elderly man with a conviction that belied his own age.

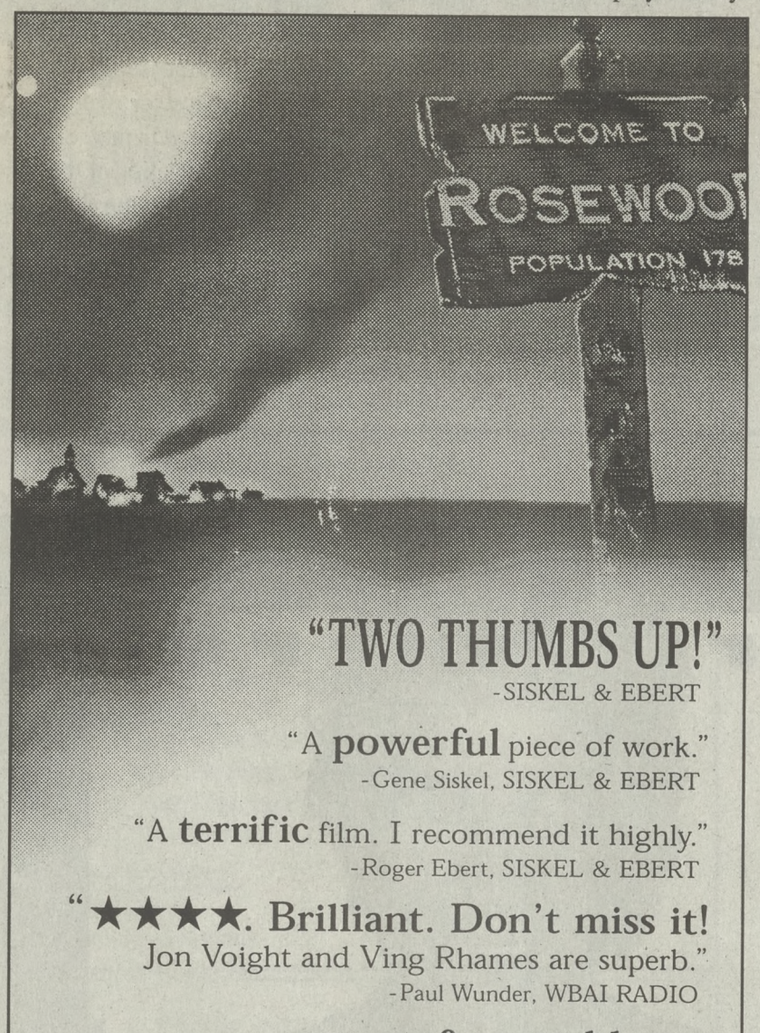
His make-up was excellently done, his mannerisms were dead on, and his attitude fit the character wonderfully.

Conversely, Jason Andrade, who played Judge Lawrence, was pathetically miscast for the role. His performance was melodramatic in that he over-delivered his lines.

Johnny Naun played Thomas the butler very well. He was convincing as the pawn of the mysterious antagonist. He delivered his lines very well and throughout the play there was not a single mistake. The scenes went well without any problems of sound or props that would normally occur.

Still, even with a few excellent performances and an exceptional set, the directional flubs, blocking problems and poor performances by a few of the cast members ultimately lead to the theatrical demise of this production.

Additional performances will be presented Feb. 27, 28 and March 1 at 8 p.m. For reservations, call (818) 778-0353. Admission is $9 for the general audience and $5 for seniors and students.



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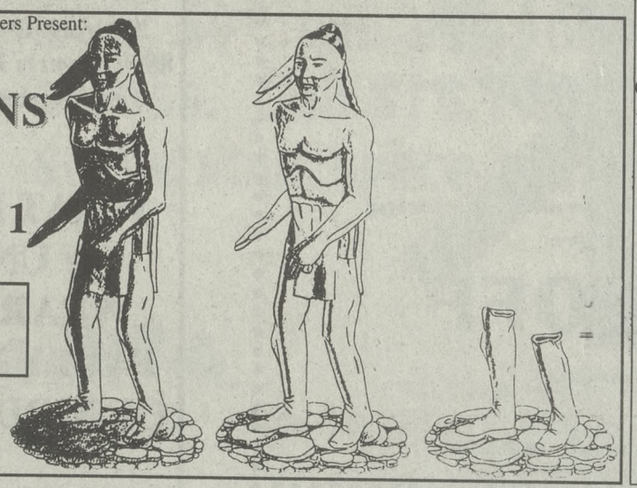
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Vocational Education Spells Success

By LIZ BARRETT
STAR REPORTER

February is Vocational Education Month and Valley administrators are taking the opportunity to focus attention on the programs offered to students who want to choose a specified field of study.

Vocational education resources show that the difference between vocational training and more general schooling lies in the end result. If a student is geared toward a specific field and is only interested in being trained in that field, access to a specific career is available through vocational training. If a student is unsure of future plans, he or she may be better off generalizing their schooling and leave more options open, Dean of Vocational Education Frank Sinsheimer said.

Vocational training is available to high school students, college-aged young people and adults who want a new career or need training to reenter the job market.

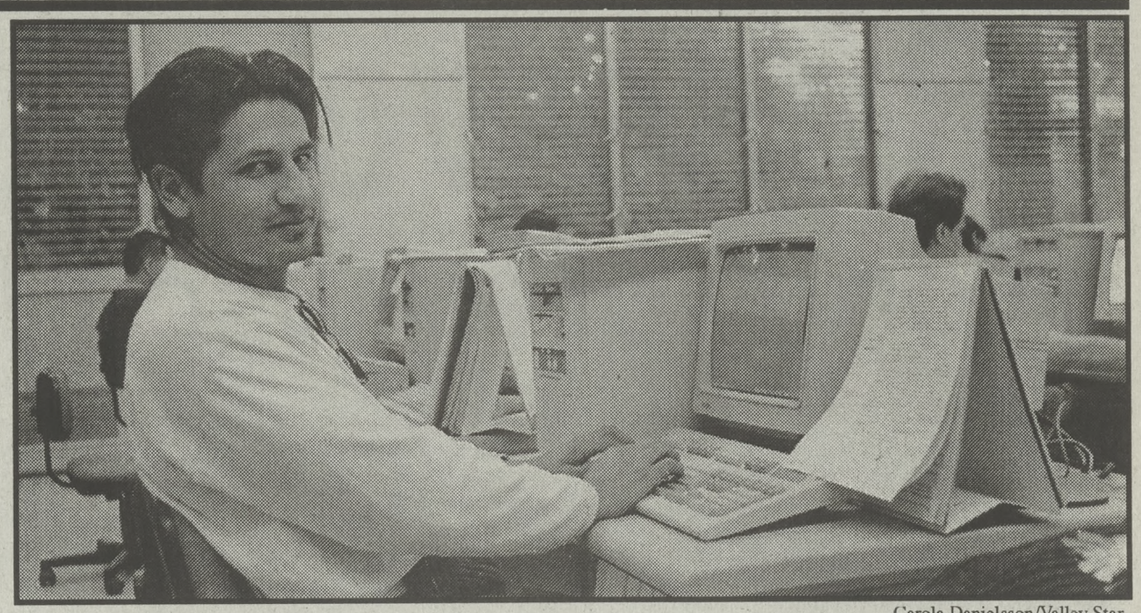
Vocational education programs offered at Valley range from administrative justice to theater arts and include such courses as electronics, health science, broadcasting, journalism, family and consumer studies, counseling, fire technology, computer science and engineering.

Sinsheimer said there are between six and eight thousand students participating in vocational education programs offered at Valley. Sinsheimer also said that the goal of vocational education is to "take someone from the community, give them the job skills they need to succeed and then put them back into the community."

"Early Start" is a program offered to high school students at Valley and is designed to give students an early start on their college courses. It allows them to take classes before they graduate high school that count toward college credit. There are currently 18 high schools in the valley participating in this program at Valley College.

The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) was developed to help displaced workers gain the skills they need to reenter the job market. Counselors from the Employment Development Department (EDD) issue a battery of tests to assess the skills of JTPA applicants and then offer a choice of specific vocational programs.

One participant of JTPA, Eva Figueroa-Phillips, has been in the program for two semesters. "It offers an ideal situation because you have job counselors who are always tracking your progress," Figueroa-Phillips said. "JTPA offers help in resume writing and how to dress and act at an interview."



Carola Danielsson/Valley Star

Jordan Sareia is one of the many students taking advantage of the new systems installed at the CCAIVE in BJ105.

Another JTPA student, Diana Lira, said, "The JTPA staff has always been there for me and is always willing to help."

The Center for Computer Assisted Instruction in Vocational Education (CCAIVE) in the Business Journalism Building, Room 105, recently updated its computer equipment, including new computer desks. It also rewired the room to better utilize the computer upgrades. The CCAIVE is used by many of the vocational JTPA students who need to be trained or retrained on computer programs such as Word for Windows and Excel.

All students interested in participating in Valley's vocational education program are advised by Sinsheimer to visit the Academic Affairs Office located in the Administration Building. Anyone interested in learning more about JTPA should visit bungalow #49.



Photo courtesy of John Stephens

Musician John Stephens performed at Valley College last week to an overflowing audience in the Music Building.

Music Lovers Groove to Jazz Tunes

By LIZ RODRIGUEZ
STAR REPORTER

Jazz enthusiasts gathered Feb. 20 at the Los Angeles Valley College Music Building and grooved to music performed by John Stephens and the Blue Visions Jazz Quartet.

Stephens, whose past credits include film soundtracks for "What's Love Got To Do With It?" and "Paradise Alley," was invited to perform at Valley College.

He gathered other, equally talented musician friends and formed the Blue Visions Jazz Quartet especially for the Valley College performance.

The band opened the show with "Au Privane," a delightful, foot tapping tune by Charlie Parker. One could see the audience was itching to get up and dance.

The second song, "Crystal," by Buddy Collete was a beautiful, slow, seductive song which transports the listener to a 1930's night club. One can almost imagine a gorgeous, tall, blonde sauntering into a room with a shimmering red dress, searching for her latest victim.

The next song, "There Will Never Be Another You," included an incredible solo by drummer Mel Lee. His facial expressions showed he truly loves to play. His drumming style displayed his passion for music.

Stephens gave a tremendous saxophone performance in the fourth song, "Round Midnight," by Thelonious Monk. The fifth song, "Perdido," by Juan Tizel, got the audience cheering even louder than before. Next, was one of the best songs, "Sea Mist," written by Blue Visions' pianist Ronnel Bright.

The band ended the show with a song called "Chicken Shack." The song was as charming as its title.

The band altogether was amazing. Each member put his soul into the music and each one performed beautiful solos. The show, unfortunately, was too short. The audience seemed to be longing for more.

Audience members, old and young alike, were ecstatic, joyously applauding and cheering after each solo and song. Their feet were tapping and heads were bobbing. It was surprising that the audience did not break into a dance routine. Passersby were also enchanted and stopped to listen. Many walked in from outside to watch the show. All the seats were filled, leaving the rest sitting on the floor.

The overflow crowd of jazz fans were united in their expressions of appreciation of the concert. At the end of the show, the audience members walked up to personally congratulate the band for an excellent performance.

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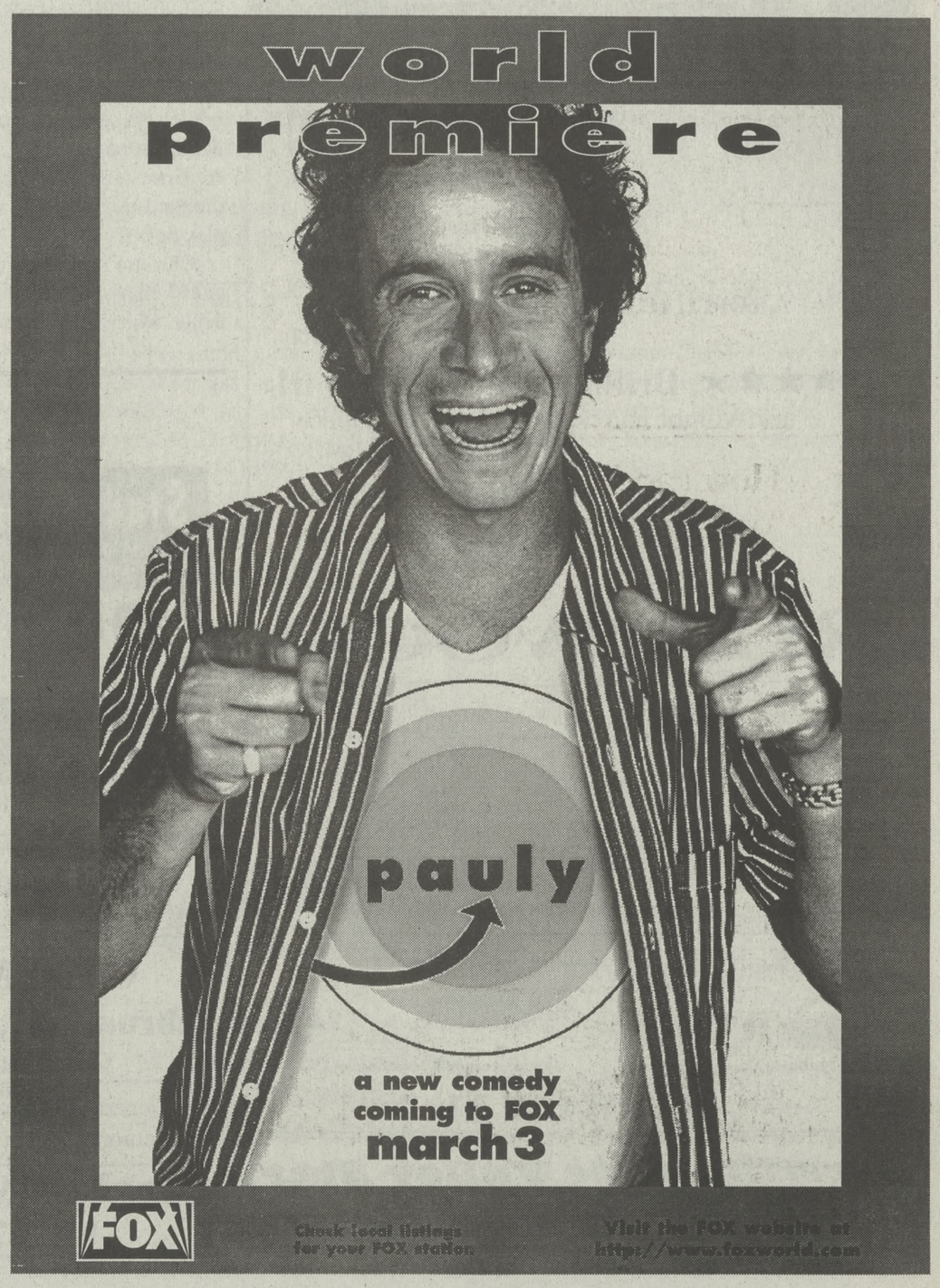
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WHAT BRAND OF UNDER-WEAR DOES PAULY DREAM OF MODELING?



Pitchers Provide Punch at Tournament

By ALLEN COCHRANE
STAR REPORTER

The Valley Monarchs softball team won two of three games at home in the Valley Classic Saturday, improving their overall record to 6-7.

Valley won the first game against Citrus College 9-5. Head Coach Kodee Murray, however, said she was unhappy with the effort her team put forth.

''Though we won scorewise, we lost on team effort," Murray said. ''But, they came back strong in the second game. In the third game they were even better."

The team agreed with their coaches sentiments on the first game. ''We didn't play up to our level," second game pitcher Jessica Leivo said. ''We won, but didn't give the showing we wanted for our first home game."

''We weren't playing as a team like we should have, ''outfielder Amber Gutierrez said.

The second game against East L.A. College was a pitchers duel with Valley's Leivo on the mound. The action was fairly tame until the top of the third when the Citrus third baseman led off with a walk, advanced to second on a groundout and scored on a single to right making it 1-0 Citrus.

In the fourth, a single by the Citrus first baseman led to a run when she advanced to second on an attempted bunt and scored on a fielding error at second as the ball got into the outfield.

With the score 2-0 in Citrus' favor, both teams settled into a groove until the game was called because of a time limit.

Although she came away with a loss, pitcher Leivo said she was pleased with the way she and the team played. ''It's probably the best I've thrown," Leivo said. ''It's gotten better for me every game and the team came out stronger. Coach said it's a huge improvement over the first game even though we lost."

Game three against Saddleback College again was pitching dominated. Kim Scott pitched for Valley having also pitched in the first.

''I think I pitched really good," Scott said. ''The best I've pitched."

The game was a scoreless tie until the bottom of the fifth. Outfielder Norma Dorado got on with a single and Guttierrez laid a bunt down the first base line that spun on the chalk eight feet from home plate. Saddleback's catcher attempted to gun down Dorado as she raced into third, but her throw was high and sailed over third base into left field with Dorado scoring easily.

That lone run held up until the the game was called in the top of the seventh, again because of a time limit.

Coach Murray said the team came into the season with limited expectations. "Were mostly freshman on the team, with only a couple of sophomores," Murray said. "Players are playing at different positions and learning how to play together. We've got talent, we just need to utilize it."

Murray said she has relied on players like Vanessa Zapata, Lydia Olivares, Scott and Leivo, to provide leadership on the team. "Our pitchers did a great job today, Jessica and Kim," Murray said. "We're not scoring a lot of runs, but they are out there doing the job."

Scott credited the defense for great support in the low scoring games. "They played outstanding," Scott said. "I have confidence, they can make the plays. Today we hit the ball good, but right to people. We'll just keep hitting it, it will go through."

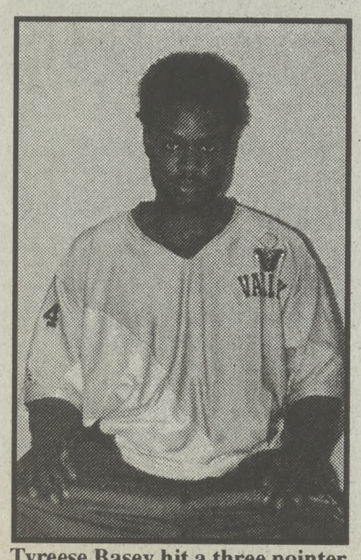
Gutierrez agreed with Scott, "As long as we stay tight and pumped up, I expect us to go a long way," Gutierrez said.



Photo by Carolla Danielsson/Valley Star

Valley batter swings at an outside pitch in the second game of the Valley Classic Tournament on Saturday.

Monarchs Are The Champions



Tyreese Basey hit a three pointer to send final game into overtime.

By BEN ALTER
SPORTS EDITOR

The Valley College men's basketball team won the Western State Conference Southern Division Championship on Saturday night, thanks to the 23-9 season and 8-2 inter-conference record.

They played their final regular season game that night against the College of the Canyons. This game was life or death for Canyons, they had to win this one to move on into the playoffs.

Canyons came into the game with a lot of enthusiasm and put up a strong first half to take a half-time lead of 42-31.

In the second half, the Monarchs came back. They were down by four with nine seconds left in the game, and hit a free throw.

Now with six seconds left, point guard Benny Hoang brought the ball down court and passed the ball off to Tyreese Basey who made a three point shot to take it into overtime.

Within the first few minutes of the overtime period Canyon again took the lead by six. The Monarchs tied the game up with only a few seconds left on the clock when Oke Ogoke and Gianandrea Maraccini each hit three pointers.

After they tied it up, Germaine Chase made two free throws for the 84-82 win.

Even with the bad first half the team played well.

"We had five players score in double figures" Coach Doug Michelson said. "Benny (Hoang) had eight assists."

The team was excited to have won the game, due to the fact that after the first half they were down by so much.

"The team was elated when we went into overtime after the first half that they had," Michelson said. "I felt very fulfilled, the team worked very hard this year, and they achieved their goals."

The Monarchs are entering the 1997 Southern California Regional Playoffs as the number eight seed. They play against Victor Valley in the first round this Saturday night at 7:30 in the Men's Gym.

If they should win this game, they go onto meet the winner of the LA City College and Palomar College game.

Valley's Top Finishers

Western State Conference Mini Track Meet #1

1st Place Finishes

Men's 4x100m Relay- Iman Williams, Devin David, David Belk, and Charles Lee, Time-42.5 seconds
Men's Shot Put- Jeff Macrea, Distance-45'1"
Women's Shot Put- Emmy Vargas, Distance-38'3.5"
Men's Discus- Jeff Macrea, Distance-122'5"
Men's 400m- Charles Lee, Time-48.6 seconds
Men's 100m- Charles Lee, Time-10.7 seconds
Men's 200m- Iman Williams, Time-22.4 seconds
Men's 4x400m Relay- Devin David, Paul Schechter, Rene Bernal and Charles Lee, Time-3:31.2 seconds

2nd Place Finishes

Men's 110m Hurdles- John Bernard, Time-17.7 seconds
Men's 100m- Iman Williams, Time-10.7

3rd Place Finishes

Men's Long Jump- Iman Williams, Distance-22'3.5"
Men's 400m Hurdles- JohnBernard, Time-60.4 seconds
Men's 800m- Paul Schechter, Time-203.1 seconds
Men's 200m- David Belk and Devin David tie, Time-23.6 seconds

Men's Team Scores

Ventura- 83 points
Santa Barbara- 26 points
LA Valley- 53 points
Allen Hancock- 18

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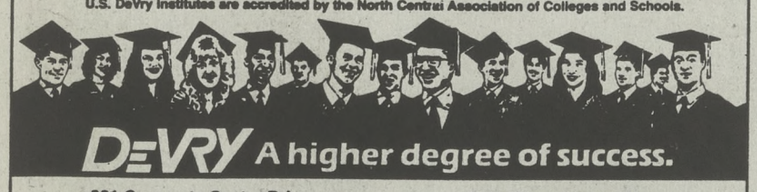
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Celebrate

St. Patricks Day



And show your "Irish" side by sending your friends a "Bit O' Luck" in the Valley Star. Tell your friends, co-workers, loved ones, teachers or students "Happy St. Patrick's Day"in a fun and thoughtful way.



Send a "Bit O' Luck" in the March 13th issue of the *Valley ☆ Star*. Only $4* will get your message across. Call 818.769.7100 to reserve your space today!

*$4.00 per column inch space.
One column inch = 2.125 inches wide x 1 inch tall.

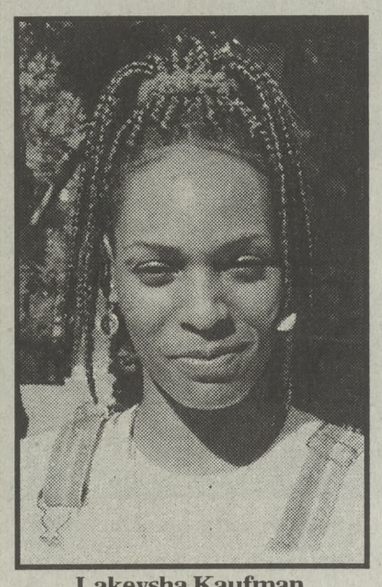
OPINION

Black History Month Special

Black Student Union Forum



Marquis Johns, BSU President



Lakeysha Kaufman, BSU Vice President

Letter to the Editor

We, the Black Student union, hope to give black and other minority students an awareness of not only our history in America, but also our history before America. Once organized, we plan to provide a helping hand to students both scholastically and spiritually, i.e. providing book loans, tutoring and informative cultural discussions concerning our true heritage.

The BSU also plans to provide students with information concerning the campus as well as the community. For example, in 1996, we as a state saw the end of affirmative action, Prop. 209, which was and can be seen as a deadly wound to the minority community. Without affirmative action, things such as jobs and scholarships that were assigned specifically to minority groups will be wiped out.

As BSU becomes more organized and larger in membership, we plan to be one of the many voices and ears of the minorities on campus by promoting unity in the community.

Marquis Johns, President of BSU Valley College

NOTICE:

The *Valley Star* is starting a new opinion column: "Sound Off." This column will include letters from our readers on topics of interest to Valley students.

If you have an opinion that you would like to sound off about or a topic suggestion, let us hear from you.

To submit your opinion, drop by your letter with student I.D. number at the *Valley Star* in BJ114, or mail it to the *Valley Star*, 5800 Fulton Avenue, Van Nuys, California 91401.

Notable Black Americans

The Valley College Black Student Union submitted the following list of notable people in Black history that they particularly want to be recognized in honor of Black History Month:

1956-present	Mae C. Jemison, M.D., first African-American woman astronaut
1917-present	Lena Horne, singer/actress
1940-1994	Wilma Rudolph, Olympic gold medal winner, Rome 1960
1910-1985	Anna Pauline Murray, Episcopal priest, co-founder of the National Organization for Women and first woman priest
1895-1980	Paul R. Williams, Architect, designed L.A. County Court house and celebrity homes
1920-1978	General Daniel "Chappie" James, first African-American four-star general is U.S. military history
1898-1976	Paul Robeson, Broadway and film actor
1925-1963	Medgar Evers, NAACP field secretary
1885-1954	Alain L. Locke, scholar and educator
1856-1931	Daniel Hale Williams, surgeon, world's first successful heart operation
1893-1926	Bessie Coleman, first African-American woman pilot
1869-1919	Madame C.J. Walker, first African-American millionaire, cosmetic manufacturer
1856-1910	Granville T. Woods, inventor, railroad, trolley car and telegraph inventions

The Black Student Union club at Valley College is open to anyone interested in the African-American culture, Marquis Johns, President of BSU said.

"We hope to unify the Black students on campus in a common club. We are open to anyone who is interested in what's going on in the African-American community," Johns said.

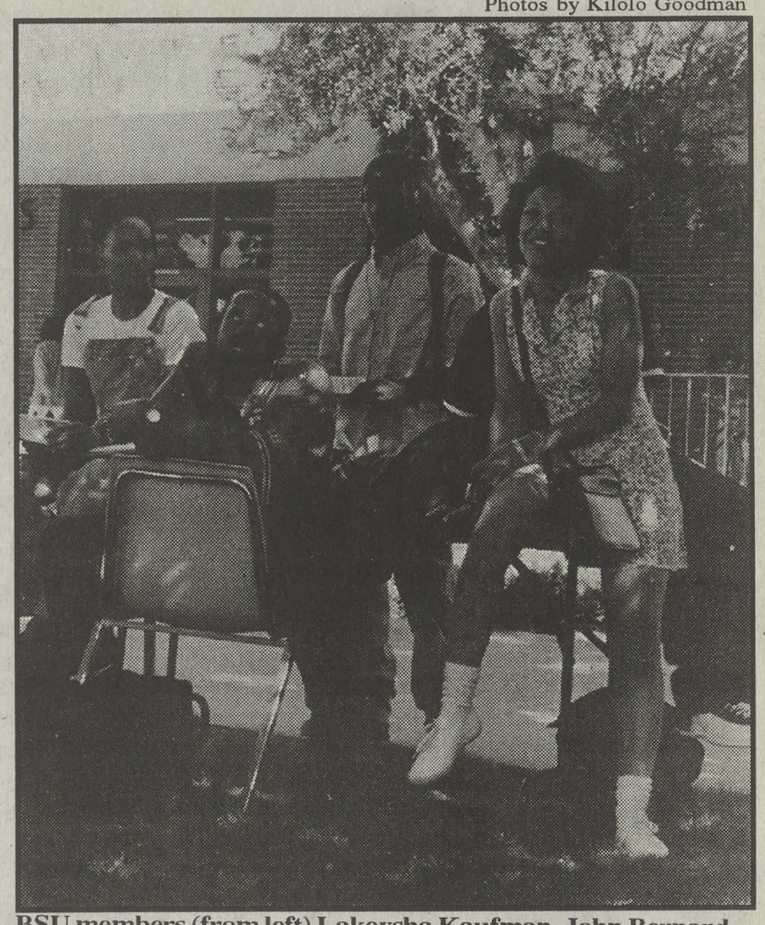
The club meets to discuss community and campus issues relevant to African-Americans and minority groups.

Other activities being planned by the club include fundraising on Club Days and a flag football team.

"We want to play with other clubs, too," Lakeysha Kaufman, Vice President of BSU, said.

The first flag football game is scheduled for March 14 at 2 p.m. in Monarch Square.

Photos by Kilolo Goodman



BSU members (from left) Lakeysha Kaufman, John Bernard, Cornelius Cherry and Sarah Bates meet in Monarch Square.

Surf the Net for Black History

Black History Month is dedicated to recognizing the achievements and contributions of African Americans.

The concept was ititially proposed by author and educator Carter G. Woodson in 1926 when the event lasted a week. The month-long celebration that is enjoyed today was implemented in 1976.

Information on Black History Month and the African-American scene is available on the Internet site: http://www.netnoir.com.

The website offers information and opinion listings on: Lifestyles & Special Interests; Arts & Entertainment; Sports; Music; Resources; Education; Community; Empowerment; and Business & News.

Website: http://www.theblackmarket.com/dates.htm, offers events significant to black history that occurred on each day of the month. For example, on Feb. 4, 1913, Rosa Parks, civil rights pioneer who sparked the Montgomery bus boycott, was born; On Feb. 11, 1990, Nelson Mandela was released form prison after 27 years; on February 12, 1909, the NAACP was founded in New York City; and, on this day in history, Feb. 27 in 1988, Debi Thomas became the first Black to win an Olympic medal in figure skating.

The same Black Market web site can link surfers to Let's Talk and other opinion forums.

If I Wanted Your Opinion . . .

This Week's Topic: Hazing

By LEO SMITH
STAR REPORTER

Remember when you thought spit-palm-handshakes were disgusting?

All of America is in an uproar over those marines that savagely beat airborne wings into the chests of their comrades as a rite of initiation (hazing) into their elite faction. The masses are decrying these actions as a barbaric and sadistic ritual that has to be cut out like a tumor.

Frankly, it is hard not to agree with these squeamish naysayers after actually having seen the act itself. It was a pretty savage scene, with equal amounts of tears and blood having been spilled by raw recruits while gleeful senior leathernecks cheered on the violence. I admit it, I was appalled.

However, just because this one event may have seemed a tad excessive, does not mean that any civilian, myself included, has the privilege to judge or condemn these men for having participated in any way.

The same goes for any other right of passage that exists within the armed forces. These blood rites endure in the military for a damned good reason: Soldiers have to know that they can depend on the guy behind them not to freeze up at any moment. After all, if you can't handle a simple beating at the hands of your friends, how can anybody depend on you to turn tail and run under fire.

Face it, the sole purpose of existing within the military is to kill and face death in the defense of life, liberty, mom and Taco Bell. The act of hazing seems tame in comparison to that ordeal.

Still, while it is true that this one example is an extreme case that I doubt permeates other rituals of its kind, the public will invariably fail to make that distinction. The demands have already been made to the powers that be to eliminate hazing in all of its manifestations.

That is truly a shame, since there is no better way to build camaraderie and trust than through shared experiences. To outright eliminate all forms of hazing is extreme, foolish and blatantly reactionary. It is better to accept that these things occur and no matter what rules are enacted, they will continue. Deal with barbaric cases on a case by case basis, punish accordingly and always remember that hazing is a victimless crime. Participants enter these tribulations willingly.

As vicious as blood pinning seems, I can still imagine a torture far worse than any beating: Watching the Spice Girls' "Wannabe" video with the volume up. Ouch.

Next week: Technophobia

Liz Strikes Back

Breaking Up is Hard to Do

By LIZ RODRIGUEZ
OPINION EDITOR

Not too long ago, a year to be exact, I received my driver's license. It took me two years to learn how to drive. For reasons beyond comprehension, I was petrified of driving, but as soon as I got my license I got over my fear. It got to the point where I would look forward to driving. As soon as I got my car I was addicted. I loved driving in my car. It was my beloved home. Nothing felt as wonderful as driving did.

Little by little, my romance with driving faded. Now I want a divorce!

My car or my driving had nothing to do with my decision. Neither did the gods or demons. Not even luck. The ones at fault for destroying my love were other drivers.

You all know who you are: The idiot drivers!

I am referring to many groups of drivers. First, there are the speed racers. These are the one who for some reason, interpret 35 miles per hour as 55 mph and 65 mph as 85 mph. There they are in congested traffic, weaving in and around cars, barely bothering to slow down or, god forbid, stop at intersections where there is a stop sign.

What really irritates me, is those who are a millimeter behind my bumper with impatient looks on their faces. Oh yeah, like that's going to make me speed up. Most of the time, I have to resist the urge to step on the brakes just to see the looks on their stupid faces. And people, stop honking when someone takes one second to go after the light has just turned green. One second does not make any difference whatsoever.

Then, there are those who do not understand the concept of red light and green light. Green GO, red STOP! Yellow, well I don't know what yellow means either, but I'm sure it does not mean step on it.

Making left hand turns really drive me up the wall! Just for the reason that when my car is in the middle of the intersection, during rush hour, I have to turn after the light turns red because when the light turned yellow everyone made a mad dash to beat the light. Then, I still have to wait for those jerks who decide to take the red light anyway.

Next, there are the cell phone drivers. How can anyone drive a car with one hand on the steering wheel, the other on the phone and pay attention to the road while engaged in a discussion with, most likely, some else on a cell phone? These drivers fall into the, "what are those arrows on my dashboard for" category. It's very annoying when I have gone to the trouble of looking over my shoulder and signaling before changing lanes to have some dork cut me off without signaling. It's extremely rude, and dangerous as well, what would happen if two drivers decide to turn into the same lane at the same time without signaling? Give up? CRASH!

Finally, there are the worst kind of the bunch, those that drive under the influence of drugs and alcohol. Here's the deal: cars can become murder weapons in the hands of the wasted. Do I need to say more?

Like the Department of Motor Vehicles says, "driving is a privilege, not a right." They don't make us take driving tests because they get a kick out of seeing us suffer, well maybe some of them do.

But seriously, reckless driving is not only incredibly annoying and rude, it is also very dangerous. People can get hurt or even killed. Besides, cars are so expensive, why would you want to risk trashing it?